

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 040751
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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 040751

FOLLOWING REPEAT MOSCOW 1721 SENT ACTION SECSTATE FEB 03.

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 1721

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDIP, CASC, UR, US
SUBJECT: JEWISH TALMUD COMMENTARIES

REF: STATE 26617

1. EMBASSY WOULD LIKE TO BE HELPFUL IN MATTER OF
TALMUD COMMENTARIES, BUT AS DEPARTMENT AWARE EMBASSY
LIBRARY IS EXTREMELY LIMITED IN SPACE FOR STORAGE
AND CONTAINS ABSOLUTELY NO SPACE WHERE VISITING
JEWISH SCHOLARS COULD STUDY. IN ADDITION, WE
ARE CONCERNED ABOUT PRECEDENT INVOLVED. HOW IS
THE EMBASSY TO DECIDE WHICH OF MANY POSSIBLE FUTURE
OFFERS INVOLVES IRREPLACEABLE MATERIAL?

2. SIMPLEST SOLUTION IS FOR FAMILY TO GIVE VOLUMES
TO ANOTHER JEWISH FAMILY, WHICH WOULD PRESUMABLY
LEAVE VOLUMES IN SAME SITUATION AS AT PRESENT.
ALTERNATIVELY, WE BELIEVE FAMILY MIGHT BE ABLE TO
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GET PERMISSION FROM CULTURAL AUTHORITIES TO TAKE
THEM OUT OF USSR, OR FAILING THAT, BY AGREEING TO
DONATE THEM TO MINISTRY OF CULTURE, RECEIVE IN RETURN
PERMISSION TO TAKE OUT COPIES. THIS IS NOT A MATTER,
HOWEVER, IN WHICH WE BELIEVE EMBASSY COULD INTERVENE
EFFECTIVELY WITH SOVIET GOVERNMENT, OR SHOULD. LENIN
LIBRARY HAS BEEN MOST UNHELPFUL IN PAST AND IS NOT

LIKELY TO BE MORE FORTHCOMING IN THIS MATTER.

3. WE WISH TO NOTE THAT EMBASSY IS ASKED REGULARLY
BY SOVIET CITIZENS EMIGRATING TO U.S. TO USE POUCH
FACILITIES TO ASSIST THEM IN GETTING ORIGINAL
MANUSCRIPTS, ART WORKS AND OTHER ITEMS THAT EMIGRANTS
CONSIDER INVALUABLE AND IRREPLACEABLE OUT OF COUNTRY.
WE WOULD LIKE TO BE ABLE TO HELP THESE PEOPLE, BUT FOR
REASONS OF INTERNATIONAL PRACTICE IN PROPER USE OF
DIPLOMATIC POUCH FACILITIES, POUCH
REGULATIONS, QUESTIONS OF PRECEDENT AND PRACTICAL
CONSIDERATIONS INVOLVING POTENTIAL VOLUME OF
MATERIALS, WE INVARIABLY REFUSE THEIR REQUESTS.
MATLOCK UNQUOTE
VANCE

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Message Attributes

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